

WINTER 2015 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine



Dr. James Henderson
President, Northwestern State University





*Dr. Jim Henderson
1994
President
Northwestern State
University*

Dear Alumni:

Thank you for the outpouring of support you have given Tonia and me over the past several weeks. We have received numerous phone calls, letters, e-mails and messages from people who care deeply about Northwestern State University and look forward to being part of its future.

I am humbled that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System selected me to lead this amazing university. The institution is very special to my family. As many of you know, Tonia and I married as seniors at NSU. The successes we have enjoyed in our professional careers are founded on our Northwestern educations. Our vision is clear: we want to help make NSU the premiere regional university in the South. Achieving that objective is possible because of the dedicated and talented faculty and staff at NSU, and I know our alumni are willing to assist in moving the university forward.

It is an honor to succeed Dr. Randall J. Webb, who has served Northwestern State with distinction for the past 18 and a half years. Under his leadership, NSU has received well-deserved international and national attention for the achievements of its students, faculty, staff and alumni.

We look forward to meeting with many of you in the months to come at campus events and alumni gatherings around the region. Northwestern State enjoys a rich history, but our best days are yet to come. I hope you will join us as we begin an exciting journey.



*Dr. Chris Maggio,
1985, 1991
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement*

My fellow alumni

With a new year, we embark on a new era at Northwestern State and welcome Dr. Jim and Tonia Henderson, along with their children, and back to the NSU family. Dr. Henderson is recognized as an innovator and a servant-leader and we face 2015 feeling that our best days are ahead of us. As University of Louisiana System President Dr. Sandra Woodley pointed out, Jim and Tonia, both NSU alumni, embody NSU's motto, "Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow."

As we continue to see, our alumni are committed to giving back in ways that impact their communities and beyond. Nearly every day, I am notified of projects and initiatives in which you are engaged. Although we can't cover every project, we will follow up on as many as possible. Please continue to make us aware of what you are doing to make your community a better place.

As always, there are many exciting events to look forward to on campus this year, including our second President's Command Performance on March 27, which will focus on Dr. and Mrs. Henderson and showcase the talents of our Creative and Performing Arts Students as part of the presidential investiture.

Thank you for your continued support of Northwestern State University. We hope to see you on campus soon.

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2nd Vice President Dr. P. Cade Brumley, Stonewall, 2002
Treasurer Matt Bailey, Shreveport, 2003
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Mike Wilburn Shreveport, 1975
Dr. Leonard Williams New Orleans, 1993

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Kyla Winey Lafayette, SGA President

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Editor Leah Pilcher Jackson, 1994, 2011
Contributors David West
Doug Ireland, 1986
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NSU Historic District expanded to include mid-century buildings



Mid-century architecture on Northwestern State University's campus is now included in a new Northwestern State University Historic District. A presentation was held in August in the gymnasium of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts to announce the expansion, which includes the original Normal Hill Historic District with the inclusion of structures built between 1884 and 1955.

The original Normal Hill Historic District, which contains the oldest portion of the university's campus, is set around the three monumental Greek Revival columns that survive the original Bullard mansion. The new district includes Warren Easton Hall (1928), Russell Hall (1937), the Alumni Center, (1927), the Lee H. Nelson Hall (Women's Gymnasium) (1923), Varnado Hall (1939), the Infirmary (1920), LSMSA gym (1929), LSMSA's main building (1938), LSMSA Music and Arts building (1938), Morrison Hall (1950), Fournet Hall (1950), Family and Consumer Sciences Building (1950), Nesom Natatorium (1939), A. A. Fredericks Fine Arts Center (1940), Caspari Hall (1939), Trisler Power Plant (1939), Print Shop (1955), the Columns (1832), Northwestern State College gate (1944), NSU entry gates (1910), Normal Hill Quad (1913) and the Fournet/Morrison/FACS quad (1950).

The Northwestern State University Historic District includes examples of Beaux Arts, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Jacobean and Collegiate Gothic architectural styles of the late 19th century as well as Early 20th Century American, Commercial Style, Modern, Campus Modern and Art Deco of the 20th century. The properties included are associated with events that made significant contribution to the history of the university.

The LSMSA gym, which was built by Louisiana State Normal, later used by Natchitoches High School and is currently used by LSMSA, was selected because of historic interest: a recessed section above the gym's main door is the only place on campus the designation "Louisiana State Normal College" still appears.





Northwestern State family welcomes the Hendersons back home

As of Jan. 1, 2015, Dr. James Henderson and his wife Tonia Istre Henderson return to Natchitoches as president and first lady of Northwestern State where they met as undergraduates, both majoring in journalism. The couple married in 1993 and have three children.

What led each of you to NSU?

Tonia: A Northwestern recruiter visited my high school, showed pictures of the beautiful campus, talked about scholarship possibilities, explained the small campus environment with big opportunities and convinced me to visit. I fell in love NSU when my parents and I drove through the gates, plus I was awarded a Presidential Scholarship. I knew that Northwestern was where I belonged.

Jim: My father sensed that work was taking precedence over college for me. He gently suggested I enroll at Northwestern (my mother was a professor of education at NSU at the time), finish my degree and marry a Cajun girl. Like any dutiful son, I did all three.

What were you involved with at NSU?

Jim: As a journalism student, I was very active in student media. Tommy Whitehead and Steve Horton helped foster an environment of collaboration and self-exploration among the newswriting and public relations students. As a group, we gave them many sleepless nights. As individuals, we built foundations for life and career success. I was also involved in student government, Public Relations Student Society of America and other student organizations.

Tonia: I was also a journalism student and a contributing writer to the Current Sauce. I was a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority. During my first four semesters, I worked in Watson Library. For the last three, I worked in the Telecommunications Department, where I was offered a full time position upon graduation.

When and how did you two meet?

Jim: I first saw Tonia walking into Vicki Parrish's Voice and Diction class and was immediately smitten. It took me a year-and-a-half to get a date. I knew her last name was pronounced "East" but had no idea it was spelled "Istre." That was a difficult problem to solve in the BG era (Before Google). After that first date, it only took five more months to get her to marry me.

Tonia: We had several classes together. I usually sat in the back of the room quietly taking notes. Jim sat at the front not quietly and not taking notes. For some reason, I found that charming.

What are your children like?

Jim: Reagan, 19, is a freshman chemistry major at University of Dallas. She graduated from Loyola College Prep in 2014 as



a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (math honors organization), and Société Honoraire de Français (French National Honor Society). She played basketball for the LCP Lady Flyers for four years and was a member of the 2012 state championship team.

Nicholas, 16, is a sophomore at Loyola College Prep. He is a math/science scholar and a Latin scholar at LCP. Nicholas plays football and runs track for the Flyers. He is also a four-time state Science Olympiad champion and placed first in his event at the State Literary Rally last year.

Alexander, 11, is a 5th grader at St. John Berchmans Cathedral School. He is a member of the robotics team and plays basketball for the Cardinals. Alex is an accomplished pianist and has performed at numerous piano competitions and recitals.

What are some things you are passionate about, both in your professional lives and in regards to personal interests?

Jim: It sounds cliché, but I am passionate about education. I have seen first-hand the transformative impact education has on the individual. Commencement exercises are absolutely amazing experiences. To see faces of graduates who are now empowered to take command of their economic futures is extraordinarily rewarding.

I am also very interested in people in general. I love to observe how humans behave in groups, both formal groups with a common agenda and informal groups where the interactions are purely social in nature. We are fascinating critters.

Tonia: I like interacting with people more than observing. One of the attributes that has helped me build a successful career in sales and marketing is a genuine interest in learning what challenges an individual or business faces, crafting a solution and enjoying the results.

What do you like to do when you are not working?

Jim: Nearly everything we do outside of work revolves around family. Our children are very involved in extracurricular activities, which our alumni who have school-aged children know can be consuming. We also love to travel as a family. Disney and the beach are frequent destinations, but we've also taken trips to New York, the West Coast, Washington, D.C.,....and stopped at every zoo along the way.

What are some things people don't know or wouldn't guess about you?

Jim: Tonia and I are complete psychometric opposites. She has dominant preferences in social and structural thinking. I am the conceptual/analytical one and, surprisingly to some, an introvert. When we realized how different yet complementary we were, we decided she would make all minor decisions and I would make all major ones. The arrangement has worked beautifully for more than 20 years. Of course, we haven't had a decision to make yet that she classified as major....

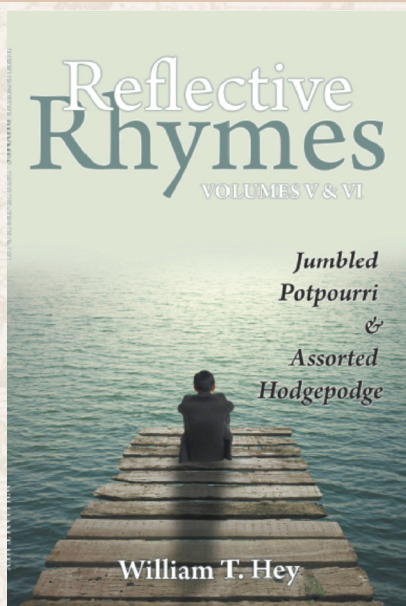


Northwestern State University
will host the second
President's Command Performance,
a spring gala to celebrate the arts, on
Friday, March 27 2015.

*This year's event will be part of
presidential investiture ceremonies.*

Details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

For information on the event as they become available,
visit northwesternalumni.com.



Dr. Willie Hey (1987) has published his third collection of poetry titled "Reflective Rhymes: Volume V (Jumbled Potpourri) & Volume VI (Assorted Hodgepodge)."

"The poems in Reflective Rhymes: Volumes V & VI are about choices made and not made, real and imagined life events, along with a variety of other things the restless mind seems to conjure up, and contains a variety of possible life situations as well as other factual and fictional topics that inspires," he said.

This collection of poems is available online through Wasteland Press. The previously published works of poetry by Dr. Hey are titled "Reflective Rhymes: Volume I (Lonely Limericks of Longing and Lost Loves) & Volume II (A Menagerie of Doggerel Verse) and "Reflective Rhymes: Volume III (Pensive Ponderings) & Volume IV (Lagniappe Assonance)."

Other published books by Dr. Hey include a biographical story about his high school basketball team titled "The Hawks Last Flight: Our Quest for a Championship" and his debut fiction novel titled "Death of College Life." Dr. Hey is a professor in the School of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport at Western Kentucky University and is currently co-authoring a college textbook titled "Interactive Health and Fitness: A Practical Approach to Wellness" to be published by Sagamore Publishing in early 2015.



Our memories, our heritage archived on Northwestern State Traditions pages

Northwestern State University has updated its Traditions website to recognize some of the people, places and things that make the university special in a more visually appealing and user-friendly fashion.

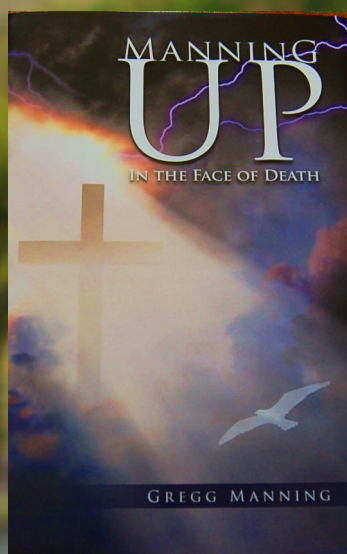
The website at traditions.nsula.edu features the school's digital archives of The Current Sauce student newspaper, the Potpourri yearbook, Argus literary magazine and Alumni Columns magazine. The section also catalogues members of the Long Purple Line, NSU's Alumni Hall of Distinction, members of the Hall of Distinguished Educators, historic campus sites and a history of the university that explains many of the school's traditions and iconic symbols.

"The purpose of the Traditions page is to document Northwestern State's history, memories, traditions, and lists of individuals who have been honored for student accomplishments, such as former Mr. and Miss NSU students, Ladies of the Bracelet, etc.," said Director of Marketing and Branding Cole Gentry, who developed the website. "It explains some of the campus folklore, such as the history of our resident ghost Isabella, how our school colors were selected and how the Demon was chosen as NSU's mascot."

The Traditions page can also be accessed through Northwestern State's main website, nsula.edu.

Planning to visit Natchitoches?

If you are planning a visit to campus, be sure to visit natchitoches.net to help plan your itinerary. There are always activities, events, exhibits and attractions that appeal to visitors that take place year-round in Natchitoches and Cane River Country.



Gregg Manning

Manning pens books to inspire with proceeds benefitting cancer society

A new book by Gregg Manning, "MANNING UP in the Face of Death," has been released and proceeds will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The book is intended to inspire cancer patients to fight on, no matter what the diagnosis, and strengthen patients' faith, Manning explained.

"As cliché as it might sound, God put it on my heart to write the story," Manning said. "The story isn't about me as much as it is about His amazing grace. I was, am and always will be humbled and honored that He chose me to survive and to witness for Him. That being said, to this day, it is hard for me to read my book because it makes me relive some very straining moments. Ironically, speaking to others about the experience doesn't bother me. So far, I have had the privilege of speaking to adult cancer patients at a hospital, to high school students at their bible study, to a group of people at a luncheon and to a group of active adults at a retirement community.

In 2007 Manning was told that he had two to six weeks to live, followed by six months in two different hospitals, an experience that profoundly affected him.

"I never wanted to write the book," he said. "During the first year that I was out of the second hospital I was given a book about a cancer survivor. I didn't open it for another year because the battle that I went through was too fresh.

Born in Tennessee, Manning was drawn to athletics from an early age, playing baseball, basketball, football and golf. He started playing tennis in 1968 and achieved national and international acclaim, including being named a collegiate All-American at Northwestern State while he was a student from 1974-1978. At NSU, he earned a BA in political science with a minor in business and was a member of Phi Eta Sigma freshman honor service fraternity and Blue Key. He served as a senator-at-large, held office in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was named Mr. NSU 1978. He was an All-Conference and All-American tennis player as a freshman and voted MVP of the tennis team as a sophomore. He was inducted into the N Club Hall of Fame in 1985.

Manning has been a member of the U.S. Professional Tennis Association since 1981, having directed tennis operations at clubs around the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. The U.S. Tennis Association chose Manning as one of America's best coaches in 1997 and he continues to train a select few today.

Manning acquired his Texas real estate license in 1986 and began a second career. He has been nominated for "Best Realtor in Dallas" for D Magazine and selected a Five Star Realtor "Best in Client Satisfaction" for Texas Monthly Magazine in 2012, 2013 and 2013. He currently lives in Prosper, Texas, on the north side of Dallas.

"According to the LLS, there will be 50,000 new cases of leukemia in 2015. Somebody's ultimate dollar reached the hands of a couple of doctors in research and development that came up with an equation that saved my life. I know that the sale of this book will do the same for someone else stricken by this disease."

In addition to North America, the book has reached Australia and South America.

"Recently, I received a text from a Florida man who I do not know who was just diagnosed with leukemia," Manning said. "Someone in Dallas told him about the book and what it could do for him. Regardless of the impact that the book may have for someone, life can turn on a dime as it did for me. For that reason, I will never let life get in the way of life again."

The book is available online at WestBow Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble and through Manning's website, **manningupforcancer.com**. Following the book's release last fall, Manning has been invited to speak and hold book signings.

"I don't know where God is taking the book or me for that matter, but excitement is building because I know that He called on me to share the story of His amazing grace," he said.



Retiring NSU President Dr. Randall Webb and Mrs. Brenda Webb were joined by family during a luncheon honoring the couple. From left are Nick Simokaitis, Lauren Webb Simokaitis, Mrs. Louise Williams, Brenda and Randy Webb, Tyler Gatewood, Tamara Webb Gatewood and Reggie Gatewood. On the row are Ava Gatewood and Benjamin and Nicholas Simokaitis.

Webbs bid farewell to NSU with many thanks for the memories

"I jump out of bed and thank God for the opportunities he's given me," said Dr. Randall J. Webb during a retirement luncheon to honor him and Mrs. Brenda Webb for their service to NSU.

"I'm humbled knowing I'm surrounded by so many wonderful people and friends and the NSU family. I hope that because of what I've been doing for 48 years in higher education that people's lives are better for having known me. That's my mission in life."

Friends, family and colleagues described the Webbs as role models of friendship, leadership and character. A capacity crowd at the Natchitoches Events Center attended to pay tribute to the Webbs who have served Northwestern State University as president and first lady since 1996. Webb is NSU's longest serving president and announced his retirement last April.

A common theme among the speakers, which included area officials, old friends and family, referenced the Webbs' humility, grace and integrity as role models and the importance they placed on making personal connections with individual students. The couple's daughters, Tamara Gatewood and Lauren Simokaitis also paid an emotional tribute.

"It is with great joy and a little sadness we leave NSU, which is part of our family," Gatewood said.

John Manno made a scholarship presentation to the Webbs on behalf of the NSU Foundation Board of Directors. Donors contributed more than \$120,000 to the Randy and Brenda Webb Scholarship. Dr. Webb was also surprised with another special gift. He will attend the St. Louis Cardinals Spring Training in West Palm Beach, Fla., attend two games and have dinner with the team. In addition, he will later go to St. Louis and throw out a first pitch in Busch Stadium.

"You can't know the love in our hearts," Brenda Webb said in thanks.

"Robert Crew [retired executive assistant to the president] used to say I'm like Will Rogers – I never meet anyone I don't like. It's true; I don't," Webb said. "There is no experience without people. That's the joy of life and being president of NSU. If you love what you are doing, you never work a day in your life."

Homecoming 2014



Hall of Distinguished Educators

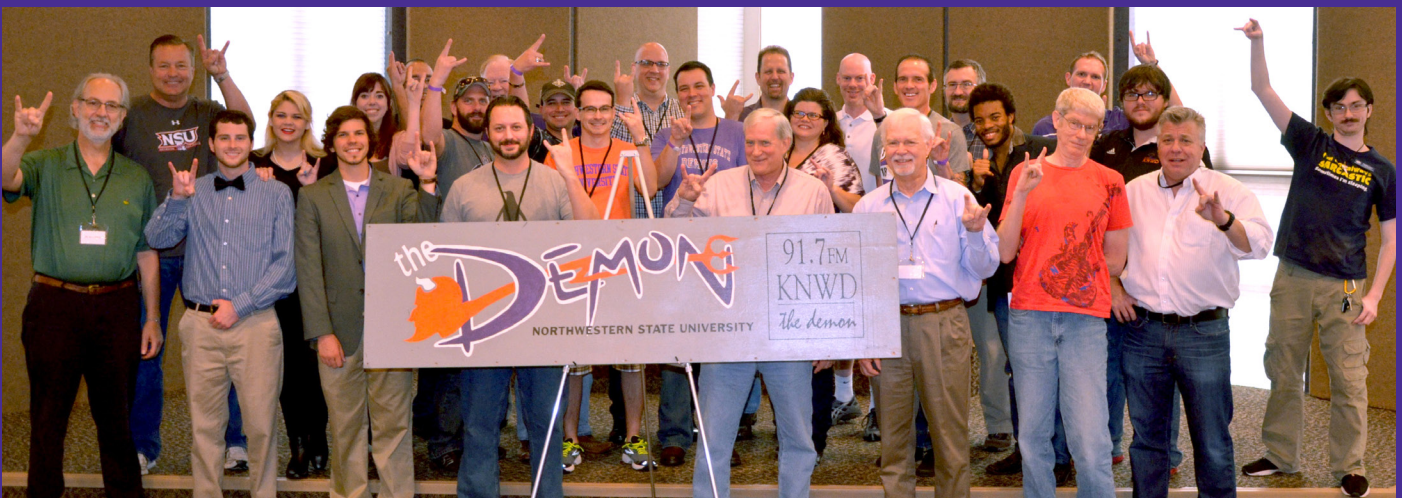
Northwestern State University's Gal-laspy College of Education and Human Development inducted five alumni into its Hall of Distinguished Educators during Homecoming festivities Oct. 11 and recognized a long-time educator as a Friend of Education. From left are Dr. Randall J. Webb, Elouise Sanders, Julie Hildebrand, W. Edward Hearron, Friend of Education Michael J. "Mickey" Murphy, Dr. Sara Peace Ebarb, Dr. Karen Jane Mayes Griffin and Dr. Vickie Gentry, dean of the College.

Cycling for Sharon

Members of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority completed the sixth annual Cycling for Sharon bike ride across Natchitoches Parish in memory of Sharon Sampité, a project that raises money for two scholarships in the Sampité family name. Their early morning ride followed a course along Highway 494, south of Natchitoches, through the Cane River National Heritage Area, to Highway 1 near Natchez, and ended with a ceremony at the Pi Kappa Phi clock in the NSU Alumni Plaza. This year's project raised more than \$567 for the Sharon Sampité, John and Allison Van Hoof Educational Scholarship administered through the NSU Foundation and the Sampité Family Baseball Scholarship administered through the Demons Unlimited Foundation.



KNWD 40th anniversary reunion



Northwestern State's student-run radio station KNWD 91.7 FM celebrated its 40th anniversary with a reunion of current and former station managers and staff. The lunch and program included discussions about how the station started and how it maintained its presence on campus through the years, followed by tours of the studio, which was renovated last year. Membership is now open to the KNWD Alumni Association, which supports the KNWD Concert Series, upgrades in equipment and studio maintenance and will enable KNWD to host future alumni events. For information on joining the KNWD Alumni Association and the benefits of membership, e-mail knwdpublicrelations@gmail.com. Alumni can also stay connected to KNWD and listen online by visiting knwdradio.org.

Spotlights

Maj. Gen. Leslie Carroll took charge of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, the U.S. Army Reserve's largest unit, during a ceremony at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans in August.

Carroll, a resident of Georgia and a graduate of Northwestern State University, most recently was chief of staff of the U.S. Army Forces Command, where he supervised a headquarters staff of more than 1,200 soldiers and civilians overseeing 750,000 troops around the world.

Nearly 2,000 soldiers in the 377th are deployed around the world. Many have been deployed overseas more

than once. The 377th has units in 34 states totaling more than 36,000 soldiers and civilians.

Grady Beard (1983) was elected to the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Workers' Compensational Educational Association (SCWCEA). Beard was unanimously elected by the board to fill an unexpired seat. SCWCEA is a non-profit organization of over 800 workers' compensation professionals in South Carolina that conducts educational programs and provides educational resources for those involved in workers' compensation claims in the state. Beard's practice focuses

on workers' compensation defense, workers' compensation mediation and alternative dispute resolution. He also practices in the firm's appellate practice group. He received his juris doctor from Emory University School of Law. A fellow in the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers and an advisory board member for Larson's National Workers' Compensation Group, Beard has previously served as co-chair for the Workers' Compensation Section of the SC Defense Trial Attorneys Association.

Earlier this year, Beard was also included in the 2015 edition of The Best Lawyers in America, a directory used

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Natchitoches Treasures

Several special individuals were recognized as Natchitoches Treasures in a program sponsored by the City of Natchitoches. Natchitoches Treasures are citizens of retirement age who are selected based on their generosity, volunteerism and love for the community. Seated from left are Edwina Lewis, Brenda Webb, Sharon Gahagan and Carol Wells. Standing are Coach Leon Johnson, NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb and Charles Roque. Dr. and Mrs. Webb were selected as a couple. Coach Johnson retired earlier this year as NSU's head track and field coach. Lewis taught in the College of Education and Wells was the university archivist.

by thousands of lawyers and corporations that is regarded as the preeminent guide to the legal profession in the United States.

Beard, a member of Sowell Gray Stepp and Laffitte, LLC, is recognized for his practice in workers' compensation law.

Located in Columbia, South Carolina's, historic Vista district, Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC, provides business and litigation representation in all state and federal trial and appellate courts in South Carolina.

LTC Sean Huggins (1995) was honored with a hero's salute prior to the Advocare College Football Kickoff between LSU and Wisconsin in Houston. Huggins is the U.S. Army Houston Recruiting Battalion Commander.

During his career, Huggins, a senior Army aviator, logged over 500 hours of combat flight. His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with Numeral 2, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with one Service Star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one Service Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with three Service Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral 5, the Senior Army Aviator Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Basic Recruiter Badge.

Huggins is married to the former Marcella Aratlejo of Phoenix, Ariz., and has four daughters.

A video of Huggins' hero's salute can be viewed at [youtube.com/watch?v=adKGclXbgwk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adKGclXbgwk).

Synthia Doaks completed her doctorate in education leadership at the University of Central Florida.

"I started my higher education career at NSU and this great start laid the foundation of transferrable skills that would follow me through this degree," she said. "I thank my NSU family for everything that I am."

Doaks earned an associate degree in office administration in 1997, a bachelor's degree in business administration at NSU in 1998 and MBA at Webster University in 2010 before completing her dissertation and graduating from UCF in 2014 with a 4.0 grade point average.

She is employed at Eastern Florida State College as accounting manager, grant and contract accountant and eLearning business adjunct.

Dr. John Bolin (1953) of Lafayette was featured in *IND Monthly*, an arts and culture publication that focuses on life in Acadiana. Bolin is a breast-dedicated surgeon at Women's and Children's Hospital.

Work by San Francisco-based **Dennis Tyler** (1981) was featured in an exhibition at Agora Gallery in New York City

in November, titled "Illumination: An Exhibition of Fine Art Photography."

"The thoughtful beauty of Dennis Tyler's photography emerges with an ethereal clarity, capturing fragments of eternity in an exquisite visual meditation. Illuminated in the delicate balance of a single moment in time, Tyler brings a glimpse of life into sculptural detail, finding an inner depth and power through contemplation of his imagery. The artist's observations are focused on form, whether manmade or natural, and are expressed in a subdued palette with an organic grace. The works are created as digital prints on paper in an invitingly wide and open format, allowing the quiet power of the imagery to develop so that the emotive and aesthetic potential of the scene is fully realized," according to the gallery.

Born in New Orleans, Tyler studied at Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara and Dominican University in San Rafael, as well as gaining a Bachelors of Science in Graphic Arts Technology from Northwestern State. He is now based in San Francisco and is active in numerous local arts and charitable organizations.

Roneeka Allyce Hill of Chapin, South Carolina, was named executive director of the South Carolina Women Lawyers' Association. In her new position, she will be responsible for the overall operational responsibilities of the association in administration, communications, events and assistance to boards and committees.



Roneeka Allyce Hill

Hill earned a degree in English at NSU in 2011 and this past May graduated from the Southern University Law Center where she was editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Race, Gender and Poverty*.

While an NSU student, Hill was involved in campus life as a President's List student, a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Blue Key, Purple Jackets, Purple Pizzazz and the Presidential Leadership Program.

Healthcare executive **Stuart Archer** (1998) was named CEO of Oceans Healthcare, a leading provider of behavioral health services for adult and geriatric patients. Archer, who has extensive experience in the management of multi-state and multi-site healthcare operations, will lead all facets of the nationally recognized behavioral health provider, which includes 14 inpatient behavioral healthcare facilities and eight intensive outpatient programs in Louisiana and Texas.

Archer previously served as COO of Plano, Texas-based LifeCare Hospitals, an operator of 24 long-term acute care hospitals in nine states. Prior to joining LifeCare, Archer served as a senior vice president for LHC Group, a leading national provider of post-acute care services with 350 locations across 29 states. He holds a bachelor's degree in human physiology from Northwestern State University and a master's degree in business administration from Louisiana State University.

Prodigy Club coaches girls for basketball and for life

"Hard work is necessary."

So says the motto of the Prodigy Club, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping young ladies become productive citizens, to have confidence in the skin that they are in and to help the girls get into college. The club was founded by Lance Johnson (2008) and his wife Catherine in 2013 who recruited Lauren Hughes (2009) to join them. The concept uses basketball skills training, life coaching, Bible study and team bonding with support in applying for college.

The first year, the Prodigy Club began with nine girls and Lance as head coach. After the completion of the second year, there were four coaches and 31 players. Hughes was an assistant coach for Prodigy's varsity and 7th and 8th grade team.

The teams compete in AAU basketball tournaments and get help filling out college applications, taking the ACT and SAT and calling college coaches or recruiters.

"The Varsity team was one of 40 teams invited to play in the PrimeTime AAU National Texas in Plano, Texas," Hughes said. "This was the first time these girls played together and they finished fourth. Prodigy Club is all about pushing girls to their limits and helping them achieve things they never thought was possible. Both Lance and I served in the military, are proud NSU alumni, and, most importantly, are dedicated to positively impacting today's youth."

Prodigy started with Johnson's heart for youth sports. He began coaching girls basketball through his job with the Boys and Girls Club of Arlington when he first moved to Texas. He was approached by the AAU organization looking to expand their coaching staff and gladly accepted the offer to spend more time doing what he loved. After working with the organization, he began to identify problems within the organization and found he had different ideas about how to develop the girls both on and off the court. Later, Johnson teamed up with a track club in the Dallas/Fort Worth area that was trying to expand into other sports like basketball. Johnson's team was the only basketball team under the group's umbrella and he felt restrained from leading the organization the way he saw fit.

"After much prayer, research and guidance, Lance and I decided to take a leap of faith and begin his own non-profit organization," Catherine Johnson said. "We spent many late nights researching the ins and outs of non-profits, investing time and money to truly launch an organization that is set apart from others, one that focuses on the life of the girl basketball player both on and off the court. Our organization focuses on three pillars of improvement, which include spiritual growth, educational advancement and improved athletic skills."

Johnson and Hughes were great friends at Northwestern State, but lost touch after Hughes joined the military.



Lance and Lauren pictured with their first team.

"We reconnected when I moved to Fort Worth, Texas, in January 2012, to begin working on a master's degree," Hughes said. Johnson was coaching girls' basketball with a Boys and Girls club in Arlington, Texas, and asked Hughes if she would like to coach.

"Over the next several weeks, he explained his vision was to help young ladies be confident in their skin, become positive people and assist them with college entrance. He believed basketball would be the tool to accomplish this vision. I agree and in 2013, he and I became coaches for Prodigy Club basketball. I must add that his wife, Catherine Johnson, is the brains of the operation."

In addition to coaching, Hughes performs chaplain duties for the team, leads Bible studies and develops biblical messages to prepare the team that parents are welcome to attend.

"All coaches have the ability to lead a Bible study and service; however, this is my area of passion, so I normally do it," Hughes said.

Johnson and Hughes earned degrees in business administration. As an undergraduate, Hughes was 2008 Miss NSU, a member of the Homecoming Court in 2007 and 2008, Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Blue Key, the National Scholars Honor Society and Who's Who Among American Universities. Hughes was very active in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Order of Omega, as well as Purple Jackets, Helping Hands and several other organizations. Johnson was president of Helping Hands and involved with Student Support Services. Catherine Johnson attended Georgia State University in Atlanta where she earned a bachelor's degree in finance in 2008.

The Prodigy Club is both challenging and fulfilling for its coaches.

"We are truly excited to see what God has in store for us in the years to come, and I am truly excited and proud that Lance is able to live out his passion," Catherine Johnson said. "This is something he loves beyond measure, and I am grateful to be able to support him."

For more information on the Prodigy Club, visit prodigyclubbasketball.org.

Pick It Forward transforms grief into helping orphans abroad

Jamie Jett turned feelings of loss into improving the economic, physical, medical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs of orphans. As president of Pick It Forward for Orphans, a non-profit children's charity based in Haughton, Jett coordinated fund raisers that provided \$4,000 to help build a school sized playground for Trisker Orphanage in Boquete, Panama; raised \$7,000 to help build a girls dorm for pregnant teenage mothers with infants and donated \$1,800 to buy school uniforms for 25 children at an orphanage in Tanzania, Africa.

"The vision of Pick It Forward is to be the arms, hands, feet and heart of Jesus in the advocacy and care of orphans around the world," Jett said. "The majority of the money raised for these projects was through garage sales and cash donations. We also do mission trips each year to the orphanages that we support."

Recent fund raising projects included silent auctions, a golf tournament and a garage sale. The mission of the volunteers is to share a portion of their hearts and homes for the orphaned by volunteering their time and donating items from their homes to be sold. The Board of Directors, all of whom also volunteer in other ways to support the organization, include several NSU nursing alumni Yvette Harrell, Debbie Miller, and Pamela Simmons.

Jett graduated from Northwestern State with a bachelor of science in nursing and earned an MBA from Centenary College. She works four days a week doing special projects for the chief financial officer at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. She retired last year as director of case management.

"On an ongoing basis, teams of missionaries go to Trisker Orphanage and Arturo Miro Orphanage Boquete, Panama," Jett said. "The mission teams do amazing work, to include, painting, providing critical medications to prevent healthcare issues, construction projects, Vaca-

tion Bible School activities, cooking, devotions, activities with the children, singing and relationship building with those that care for the children. Funds raised by Pick It Forward for Orphans support these mission trips by purchasing supplies for the children and for projects."

The organization began as a way to fill a great void in Jett's life.

"I lost both of my parents in 2010, nine months apart," Jett said.



Jamie Jett with Ngobe children

"For two years I stopped going to church and doing anything other than work and going home. I was sitting on my couch one day and started asking God what I needed to do, I was tired of being lonely and had no joy in my life. He told me loud and clear: 'You need to say yes to me again.' So, I did. Very simply, I started saying yes every opportunity that I got to live the life He was calling me to live."

In October 2013 a friend asked Jett if she wanted to go on a mission trip.

"I said yes, not really knowing what I was saying yes to. I just knew I was supposed to go," she said. "It was an amazing trip, I fell in love with the children at Trisker Orphanage and they stole my heart.

When we were getting ready to leave, I had a burning desire to raise money to help build a playground for the kids for Christmas. When we got home we did two big garage sales and raised over \$4,000 that we donated to the project. Sowing Seeds of Love and other organizations donated money to support the project, which cost \$20,000. The playground was built for Christmas 2013."

After the second garage sale, Jett was watching TV when she caught the star of American Pickers talking about the lost art of storytelling and sharing history with children.

American Pickers go to barns, old homes, estate sales and flea markets to find old things to resell. Watching, Jett was inspired to name her endeavor Pick It Forward for Orphans.

"The concept was clear to me. In America we have so many things in our homes that we don't use that can be sold at prices that our community can afford which is a service for our community and the money that is made can be used to help orphans."

After two month of paperwork and board meetings, Pick It Forward for Orphans, Inc. became a 501c3 on January 1, 2014. Since then, the organization has raised over \$15,000 to help children that are orphaned.

Jett said a missionary team will go back to Trisker and Arturo Miro in January to build lockers for the girls and boys to have their own personal storage spaces, construct an obstacle course for boys and purchase a walk-behind tiller for use at Arturo Miro, which is a working farm. The group will also organize crafts and a field day activity at Trisker, give the staff a break by preparing meals at both locations and conduct Bible school and devotion activities for children and staff at both orphanages.

For more information on Pick It Forward for Orphans visit <http://www.pickitforward.com>.



Ryan Anholt, Adrian Hardy, Kenta Bell, Peggy Lewis, Ed Moses, Barry Rubin and Ed Orgeron, were honored as 2014 inductees into the Graduate N Club Hall of Fame at Northwestern State. The celebration took place during Homecoming festivities.

Stories and emotions flew freely at N club induction ceremony

With the seven honorees including a two-time USA Olympian, one of college football's most passionate figures and a renowned NFL strength coach, there was no question the 2014 Graduate N Club Hall of Fame Ceremony at Northwestern State would be memorable.

Two-time USA Track and Field Olympian Kenta Bell, along with All-America and Academic All-America baseball player Ryan Anholt, and three football standouts: All-American Adrian Hardy, the Demons' second-leading all-time tackler in Ed Moses, and Ed Orgeron, whose outstanding playing career at NSU has been eclipsed by his coaching

accomplishments. Lady Demon track and field great Peggy Lewis, a three-time Southland Conference champion, was also enshrined. Former Demon football player Barry Rubin, who has become one of the nation's most prominent figures in strength and conditioning training and is in his 18th year in the NFL, received the Graduate N Club's Distinguished Service Award recognizing outstanding accomplishments following his collegiate athletic career.

The stories and emotions that flowed freely enthralled the crowd at Magale Recital Hall during a stirring and entertaining 90 minutes on NSU's

Homecoming morning.

There were poignant reflections, there were heartfelt expressions of gratitude to the institution and there were testaments from presenters introducing the inductees with humor from every inductee and nearly every speaker.

"One thing we say about Northwestern, it's all about the tradition. It is so strong here and you feel a responsibility to live up to it, try to add to it," Hardy said.

"I covered a lot of miles in this town and on this campus, and it all turned out great for me. Thanks a lot, Northwestern."

Howard, NSU's first African American football player, recognized as Demon Great of the Game



Melvin Howard of New Orleans, center, played on season at Northwestern in 1968 and was recognized as a Demon Great of the Game. He is pictured with Athletic Director Greg Burke, left, and Mike Newton, president of Exchange Bank.

History-making Melvin Howard, the first African-American football player in Northwestern State history, was recognized as the Exchange Bank Demon Great of the Game when NSU hosted longtime rival McNeese State on Nov. 1.

Howard was honored during a timeout in the first quarter of the game. The New Orleans native played one season (1968) for the Demons before returning to his hometown, where he later earned a degree from Loyola University and spent 40 years as a member of the New Orleans Police Department.

Among Howard's highlights during the 1968 season was a kickoff return for a touchdown against Southwestern Louisiana. Despite playing just one season in purple and white, Howard has remained a dedicated Demons fan.

When told of his selection as the Demon Great of the Game, Howard told NSU Assistant Athletic Director of Development and Marketing Haley Blount, "You didn't just make my day, you made my life."

Pro Football Hall of Fame member Jackie Smith, who helped the 1962 Demons win the Gulf States Conference championship; College Football Hall of Fame inductee Gary Reasons, a three-time All-America linebacker from 1981-83; 1987

continued on page 13

Bequest will benefit HHP, female student-athletes

Students pursuing a degree in health education and women student-athletes at Northwestern State University will benefit from a bequest established by a teacher and long-time professor.

Dr. Violet Davion Shaver left a gift of \$100,000, stipulating that half would go to the Department of Health and Human Performance with an emphasis in health education and half would support women's athletics, including scholarships.

The Department of Health and Human Performance will utilize a \$10,000 match from the NSU Foundation to apply for an additional \$40,000 match from the Board of Regents Support Fund to establish the Dr. Violet Davion Shaver Endowed Professorship in Health and Human Performance, the first in the department.

NSU's women's athletic teams have enjoyed a high level of success over the past year, with women's basketball and softball earning NCAA postseason berths by winning Southland Conference tournament titles. Women's tennis won the Southland regular season title and were runners-up at the conference tournament and the volleyball team registered the best season in the program's 32-year history.

Shaver was born into a pioneer family in Oakdale May 12, 1919, and earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education at Louisiana Normal College (now Northwestern State) in 1939 and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. She taught in the public schools before joining the faculty at Northwestern State. She had been a resident of Lake Charles



Violet Davion Shaver played croquet as an undergraduate at Normal in 1938.

since 1986.

During her career, Shaver held offices at the state, southern and national levels in professional organizations related to health education and physical education. She served throughout the state as a speaker and director of workshops and seminars and contributed extensively to the State Department of Education in areas of curriculum construction and upgrading.

Shaver was a recipient of the honor award from the Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation in recognition of meritorious service. Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church in Lake Charles bestowed an honorary life membership upon her.

Spring sports reunions announced

Reunions are approaching for some of NSU's sports and championship teams, with alumni invited back to campus for weekend festivities.

The annual **NSU Basketball Reunion** is once again set for the final Saturday home game of the season, a March 7 double-header at Prather Coliseum against the University of New Orleans.

Among the teams in the spotlight will be conference championship teams for the Demons in 2005 and 1955, and the Lady Demons' conference title winners in 1985 and 1995. Adding to the appeal for the 2005 Demons will be the matchup against a UNO team coached by former Demons' assistant Mark Slessinger.

For information about the NSU basketball reunions, contact the respective offices – (318) 357-5891 for the Lady Demons and (318) 357-4274 for the Demons. The event will include a luncheon before the 1 p.m. women's game followed by the 3 p.m. men's game, with former players recognized during the contests.

Southland Conference baseball champion teams in 1995 and 2005 will be featured during a spring Demon baseball reunion open to players and coaches from any era March 27-29. For information, contact Haley Blount, assistant athletic director for marketing and development, at blounth@nsula.edu or by calling (318) 357-4278.

Two track and field championship teams will be invited for special recognition at the April 25 Leon Johnson NSU Invitational meet at the Walter P. Ledet Track Complex. Ledet coached the 1955 Gulf States Conference champs and Johnson led the 1985 Gulf Star Conference winners. Blount is also the contact for that reunion, with all track and field alumni invited.

Check NSUDemons.com for information on the reunions as plans are finalized.

Howard continued from page 11

All-America defensive end John Kulakowski, a Graduate N Club Hall of Fame member; record-setting Lady Demon distance runner Maryalyce Walsh Cox and former full back Brett Knecht were the first four Exchange Bank Demon Greats of the Game. Smith and Reasons were honored at the Aug. 28 game against Missouri State, Kulakowski on Oct. 11 against

Incarnate Word and Cox on Oct. 18 against Sam Houston State.

The Demon Great of the Game spotlights some of the most outstanding performers in the 107-year history of NSU football.



The NSU Foundation received \$10,000 after winning a statewide contest in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). The Patrick F. Taylor Foundation sponsored a "Lunch-time Likes" social media contest among Louisiana colleges and universities. Northwestern State recorded more than 2,200 likes, which was double the number tallied by the second place finisher. From left are Jill Bankston, Mrs. Patrick Taylor and Dr. Chris Maggio.



Northwestern State University's Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts honored two long-time patrons by naming the CAPA music library after them. Danny and Lenn Prince were present for a ribbon cutting and dedication for the Prince Media Music Library. The dedication also served as a forum to announce the creation of two professorships funded by the couple, the Danny and Lenn Dohmann Prince Professorship in Voice and the Danny and Lenn Dohmann Prince Professorship in Music. From left are Danny and Lenn Prince and Dr. Greg Handel, director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts.



Townsend family's support of scholarships continues

The family of Alton Townsend Sr., who passed in January 2014 at age 92, renewed an existing scholarship and established a new scholarship in memory of him and his second wife that will benefit students from St. Tammany, Red River, Rapides, Grant or Bienville parishes studying education or early childhood education. Preference for the Alton Townsend Sr. and Doris D. "Dollye" Beard Townsend Scholarship will be based on involvement with 4-H, Future Farmers of America, basketball, the military, ROTC and Future Business Leaders of America, organizations that were very important to Townsend, said his daughter, Leta Townsend Brown. Eligibility is open to freshmen through senior students. Seated are Catherine Townsend L'Herisson and Desiree B. Cortez. Standing are NSU Alumni and Development staff Jill Bankston, Tiffany Chasteen and Vanner Erikson, Brenda Webb, Dr. Randall J. Webb, Chris Townsend, Leta Townsend Brown and Ron Brown.

Professorships fulfilled through donor contributions, state matches



Dr. Chris Maggio, Ellis and Juanita Coutee, Dr. Gene Easley and Jill Bankston represented many donors when the announcement of the fulfillment of two professorships was made during Homecoming festivities.

Two professorships established at Northwestern State University have been fulfilled through donations to the NSU Foundation. The Roy G. Clark and Charles H. Wommack Endowed Professorship in Industrial Engineering Technology was fulfilled in the amount of \$100,000, as was the Robert H. Easley Endowed Professorship in Business.

The Clark-Wommack Professorship was established by NSU alumni Ellis and Juanita Coutee of Baton Rouge in appreciation for the positive impact each honoree had on Mr. Coutee during his student days. Funds provided by the Clark-Wommack Professorship were matched with state funds and additional support from Mrs. Coutee's former employer.

The Robert H. Easley Endowed Professorship in Business was funded by contributions from 28 donors in an effort spearheaded by former students, family and supporters of the School of Business. It, too, was fulfilled through a match.

For information on establishing an endowed professorship, please email Jill Bankston or call her at 318-357-4414, or email Van Erikson at eriksonv@nsula.edu, or call him at 318-357-5213.

Extra Mile scholarship goes national

The David D. Morgan "Extra Mile" National Scholars Program is being launched by the Pi Kappa Phi Foundation.

The Extra Mile National Scholars Program was funded with a \$1 million gift from Morgan, a Northwestern State University graduate. The program was piloted by the Beta Omicron chapter at NSU.

The new initiative seeks to encourage, motivate and ultimately recognize students who go the "extra mile" during their undergraduate career by effectively balancing their academic and extra-curricular activities while working either part or full time.

Beginning this fall, more than 10,000 Pi Kappa Phi student members on more than 180 campuses across the country will have the opportunity to apply for scholarship grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 depending on the quality of a student's application.

"Through hard work and the application of one's talents, students stand to gain important life lessons in resiliency, industriousness, and entrepreneurial thinking which will serve them through the rest of their life. This was the impetus behind the extra mile concept."

—Morgan

Applications for the program will be made available this month. The inaugural class of recipients will be notified in late fall with presentations to follow in January.

Dan Chase legacy will live on through 1st generation student scholarship



Lilly Chase of Baton Rouge established the Dan Chase First Generation Scholarship in memory of her late husband, Dan Chase, a long-time NSU supporter. From left are NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb, Associate Director of Development Jill Bankston, Lilly Chase and grandson Jake Causey.

First generation college students attending Northwestern State University will be eligible for a scholarship established to honor a 1957 alumnus who was a long-time supporter of the University.

The Dan Chase First Generation Scholarship was created through a \$60,000 gift from Lilly Chase of Baton Rouge to the NSU Foundation, which was matched with \$40,000 by the Board of Regents. Scholarship applicants must be Louisiana residents whose parents or legal guardians did not earn a college degree and must be awarded the federal Pell grant.

"The Chase family has a long history of supporting Northwestern State, having previously established scholarships to benefit student-athletes and students pursuing degrees in education and psychology and assisted in other fund raising efforts," said Dr. Chris Maggio, assistant vice president for External Affairs. "Mr. Chase's legacy will live on through the students who benefit from the family's desire to help others."

Dan Chase, a 1957 graduate of NSU, was a member of the university's Long Purple Line, Northwestern State's Hall of Distinction, and received an honorary doctorate from Northwestern in 2005. He was co-chair of the University's first capital campaign and was honorary chairman of the 2006 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. In celebration of his 50th anniversary to his wife, Chase donated funds for the fountain that is the focal point of Northwestern State's Alumni Plaza. He passed away in June 2011.



Members of Mu Kappa Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity held a chartering ceremony to install and charter the fraternity at Northwestern State University. Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity (PIKE) formed a new colony at Northwestern State in 2012 with a membership of more than 50 students consisting of members of the NSU crew, the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band, Freshman Connectors, NSU cheer, the Student Activities Board, ROTC, Demon football, Demon dodgeball, Fresh Campus and many other extracurricular organizations. Pi Kappa Alpha was founded on March 1, 1868, at the University of Virginia by six men. Four were members of the Confederacy and two were members of the Union in the Civil War.

Globetrotting volunteers listed among National Geographic's Travelers of the Year

Kip Patrick, a 1995 graduate of Northwestern State University, and his wife Liz Zipse were honored as National Geographic 2014 Travelers of the Year. Chosen by National Geographic Traveler magazine editors, the honorees are individuals, families or small groups who explore the world with passion and purpose and have an exceptional and inspiring story to tell.

Patrick and Zipse spent 16 months traveling 30,000 miles in 24 countries while volunteering at least one day each week, blogging about it along the way and sharing tips on how travelers can include volunteerism on their own trips.

Earlier this year, Northwestern State partnered with 1 of 7, Patrick and Zipse's non-profit organization, to encourage students to spend one day per week engaged in volunteer work or service to others. Patrick, who was a guest speaker at NSU's New Student Convocation in August, said he and his wife developed 1 of 7 as a result of their experiences picking up trash, tutoring and engaging in other service projects at home and during their extensive travels. Patrick has travelled to more than 70 countries and completed some kind of service work in most of them.

To read Patrick and Zipse's online interview, visit <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/travelers-of-the-year-2014/liz-zipse-and-kip-patrick/>

For information on 1 of 7, visit 1of7.org.



Guess Who

This member of the Student Activities Board made friends with Mr. Monk, a 32-year-old cinnamon ringtail monkey, during 2004's SABari. Can you name her? The first five correct answers will receive a prize. If you know the answer, call the NSU Press Publications Office at (318) 357-4586 or e-mail jacksonl@nsula.edu.

Answers to the Guess Who in the Fall edition were Johanna Tannehill and Otis Faust enjoying the Freshman Watermelon Party.

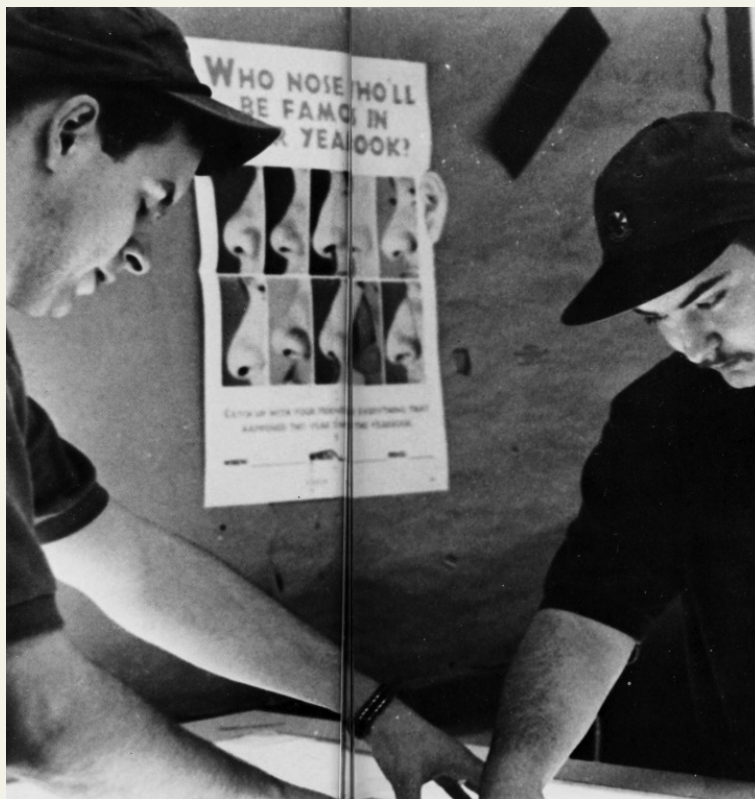
Those who guessed correctly were:

Louise Thompson (2002), Many
Tynes Hildebrand (1954), Natchitoches
Evelyn Ford (1960), Marthaville
Glenda Thaxton (1972), Robeline
Cindy Chester (1969), Natchitoches
Phyllis Lee (1972), Zwolle
Beth Allen, Many
Carolyn Martin (1967, 1969), Many
Donnie Wooley (1988), Many
Cody Faust (2010), Shreveport
Barbara Tibbett Johnson (1975), Natchitoches
Mary Jane Wright (1969), Natchitoches
Ronnie Wright (1967), Natchitoches
Oscar W and Karen C Lee (1969),
Dr. Cade Brumley (2002), Stonewall

Sherry Salter (1976), Negreet
Shirley Rivers (1979), Many
Tonie Harwell (1980),
Judy Manasco (1969),
Joal Beason (1971), Florian
Gwen Scott (1977), Natchitoches
Kathy Alford (1991), Lafayette
Donna Masson (1968), Natchitoches
Sharon Rodriguez Lunbeck (1982), Houston
Paula Mannzen Patrick (1980), Converse
Brent Little (Melissa Womack Little/1990), Tyler, Texas
Janet Fowler (1970), Bryant, Arkansas
Stuart Bird (1975, 1980), Bullard, Texas
Jannah Gray (2009), Baton Rouge
Jesse Urias (1971), Bothell, Washington



Looking Back



Current Sauce Editor Jim Henderson, left, worked with Jeff Guin to lay out the paper, as pictured in the 1994 Potpourri. As editor, Henderson was responsible for keeping Northwestern students informed about the people and events that shaped the university.

Alumni Columns magazine is online with an extended version including the **Lagniappe section** where more snippets, alumni spotlights, and additional photos can be found. View the full magazine with the online section at northwesternalumni.com/alumnicolumns.



In Memory

1951 – Crayton G. “Sparky” Hall, Aug. 27, 2014, Fletcher, North Carolina

1953 – Harry “Buck” Anderson, Aug. 7, 2014, Irving, Texas

1953 – Dr. Myron W. Lockey, Sept. 11, 2014, Madison, Mississippi

1955 – Dudley Downing, Sept. 26, 2014, Sherman, Texas

1958 – Charles LaRoux, Sept. 25, 2014, Melbourne, Florida

1966 – Mrs. James B. Norman (Henrie Waldrop), October 2013, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

1969 – Aubrey T. Temple Jr., October 18, 2014, DeRidder

1977 – Lillian Priest, Sept. 2, 2014, Shreveport

1981 – Dan Nance, Nov. 8, 2014, Leesville

1990 – Scott Buetow, Aug. 29, 2014, Monroe

1998 – Ryan Bundy, Oct. 25, 2014, Dallas

2007 – George Wolfe, Sept. 25, 2014, New Orleans

John Emile Francis, Aug. 30, 2014, Alexandria

Doris McGrew Seals, Sept. 7, 2014, Ventress

Blanche Choppin Compton, Sept. 12, 2014, New Orleans

Karl William Marx Sr. Feb. 13, 2013, Orcutta, California

A pocket park created through a partnership between the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, City of Natchitoches and the Cane River National Heritage Area was developed adjacent to campus with features that reflect the historic Bullard Mansion columns. A plaque in the park will delineate some of NSU's history and traditions within sight of the original Normal Hill Columns. Motorists and pedestrians can enjoy the water feature just outside the main gates of the campus.



Campus News

Students get advice on navigating career paths at Porter Forum

Set goals, make plans, be willing to adjust and keep pushing. These were the common sentiments from speakers at Northwestern State University's 49th annual J. Walter Porter Forum sponsored by the School of Business. This year's theme was "Insights into the Game of Life: Critical Lessons" featuring Barbara Jo Pease, Michael Fox and Wes Breeden offering students advice on finding success in their careers.

"When I went to work for Shell, there were few women and still fewer in management positions," Pease said, sharing her philosophies, outlined as "Navigating the Whitewater Rapids in Corporate America." Her top five were tips elaborated on how an individual should define their own success, know the game being played, play the game to get where they want to go, seek help and make a plan but adapt.

Pease earned a degree in accounting at NSU in 1973, followed by a long successful corporate career and retired from Shell Oil as chief ethics and compliance officer. She is also founder of the Louisiana Youth Seminar, a leadership program for high school students, and consults and teaches in the field of ethics and compliance for a variety of companies.

"Be proactive. Make a list of goals, five on the personal side, five on the career side," Pease said. "When you make choices in life, always think about the unintended consequence of your choices. Add to great skills with a great work ethic and skills for where you want to go."

Fox, who is president and CEO of CP-Tel, has more than 30 years experience in the information and communications technology field with a focus on business planning and developing financial business and ownership models.

"Be a planner, but learn to adjust," Fox said, as he described beginning his college career as a voice and music major, then studied political science with the intention of going to law school but changed after taking an economics course and went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in that field. He described how the world of telecommunications changed and his experiences working abroad.

"Business comes down to money," Fox said. "The game will change. Be prepared to adapt. Job security means being important to the bottom line. Take chances, have fun. Don't wait for all the lights to be green. Have a plan but be willing to adjust. Know your value so you have options."



NSU's J. Walter Porter Forum featured speakers Wes Breeden, Barbara Jo Pease and Mike Fox, who offered insights into their experiences and career success. From left are Breeden, Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, director of the NSU School of Business; Pease and Fox.

Breeden, a 2003 NSU graduate is regional vice president for the Association Member Benefits Advisors, which specializes in benefits for the largest state and teacher retirement association in the country. He volunteers with students to develop organizational and leadership abilities.

"You are not special and you are not unique," Breeden told students. "The quicker you realize that, the quicker you can get on your career path."

According to Breeden, successful individuals maximize the 1 percent that makes them different from all others.

"Have a goal, have a plan, have a positive attitude and create action. Do it now," he said. "The goals have to be yours. It's better to aim high and miss than to aim low and hit it every time. There are clearly defined winners and losers. Keep pushing. Be fireproof, bullet-proof and waterproof. It's not easy. What you do with that 1 percent can make an unbelievable life."

Northwestern State's J. Walter Porter Forum was established by family and friends of the late Mr. Porter in recognition of his interest in improving the image of business a career field for college students. Bill and Lisa Porter of Dallas represented the Porter family at the Forum.

For more information on the J. Walter Porter Forum, visit business.nsula.edu/j-walter-porter-forum. For information on the NSU School of Business, visit business.nsula.edu or e-mail Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, director, at kilcoyne@nsula.edu.



Andrew Fisher, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Central Louisiana and the Ark-La-Tex, renewed a scholarship that benefits a Northwestern State University business student. He is pictured with Jill Bankston, NSU's associate director of development for university advancement.

Better Business Bureau supports business students, promotes marketplace ethics

The Better Business Bureau Serving Central Louisiana and the Ark-La-Tex renewed their annual scholarship benefitting a Northwestern State University student. The Better Business Bureau Serving Central Louisiana and the Ark-La-Tex Scholarship is a \$400 award presented to a student each fall and spring semester. Recipients must maintain a 3.0 or higher grade point average and intend to eventually earn a Master of Business Administration, according to Andy Fisher, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Central Louisiana and the Ark-La-Tex. The award can be renewed for up

to three additional consecutive semesters.

"The scholarship is beneficial to the Better Business Bureau as it allows the Bureau to show its support to the community and the universities that we promote ethics in the marketplace," said Andrew Fisher, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Central Louisiana and the Ark-La-Tex. "The scholarships help the students that are deserving by making their grades and will allow these to students to become good business people when they graduate and to show them how important ethics is in the marketplace."

Fisher said he hopes the award will enable a deserving student to become an important business person in the business world.

The Better Business Bureau's mission is to create a community of trustworthy businesses, set standards for marketplace trust, encourage best practices, celebrate marketplace role models and denounce substandard marketplace behavior. In addition to Northwestern State, the agency has created scholarships at other post-secondary institutions in the region. For more information on the Better Business Bureau of Central Louisiana and the Ark-La-Tex, visit Shreveport.bbb.org.

CONSAH marks 65th year



Students and faculty in Northwestern State University's College of Nursing and School of Allied Health marked the school's 65th anniversary in September. Since 1949, more than seven thousand students have received degrees from the NSU College of Nursing, making it the oldest state supported nursing program in Louisiana. In November, NSU's online Bachelor of Science in Nursing program was ranked among the top 50 in the country by two higher education websites.

Nurse's legacy lives on in Asian hospitals in need of supplies

The memory of a former member of the NSU nursing faculty is living on through the use of her uniforms, scrubs and other possessions being utilized in parts of Asia in which supplies are scarce and expensive.

Paul Holman shared the following story on how his late wife's legacy carries on.

My late wife, Sheila "Ann" Holman was an assistant professor of nursing at the Shreveport campus. When she retired, she was the director of nursing at Live Oak Nursing home. She advised all of the nursing assistants to go to NSU, to enroll in the two-year RN course. Many of them did, but one day a woman came to her and said she could not graduate in June as the college was not offering the course she needed to graduate that semester. My wife called the director about this matter and she was told they had 28 students for that class and they had no one to teach it. My wife asked if she could teach it. The director said due to the shortage of teachers the state had enacted a law allowing retired teachers to come back and teach.

At the same time, the Willis Knighton Hospital had a contract with NSU to teach their nurses advanced courses. For some reason the instructor hired to teach the course quit after only two weeks. NSU

asked Ann if she would teach this course and she did.

In 2009, 20 years of fighting renal cancer ended Ann's career, but not her teaching, as she donated her body to LSU Health Sciences Center Medical College.

All of Ann's NSU uniforms, scrubs and nursing shoes were in her closet. My daughter Laura asked me if I still had any of her mom's nursing gear. I told

her I did and she asked me to send it all to her as she was going on a medical mission trip to Bhutan in the Himalayas.

When she got the gear, I told her anything she wanted to leave behind, she could, as clothing and shoes in the Orient are very costly and any donations would be appreciated.

When she was leaving Bhutan, she sent me to the following message:

"Hi Dad. This is Ramay, an O.R. tech from Thimpu, who comes to Bhutan when Surgicorps does their mission. He is 'the man,' helping coordinate the Bhutanese and foreign teams.

He had admired mother's nursing shoes and when I told him I was leaving them to him, he snatched them up! I then told him I had two more pair. He said immediately, 'Don't tell anyone else, I will get them right away!'

Seen here is a photo of Ramay with the coveted shoes.





Former Sabine Index Editor/Publisher Robert Gentry made a donation to the Cammie G. Henry Research Center of Watson Library at Northwestern State University of historic newspapers and a variety of items related to Louisiana politics, country music and the Rebel State Commemorative Area in Marthaville. The Robert Gentry Collection will be available to scholars studying Louisiana politics and country music. Looking over part of the collection is, front from left, Robert Gentry, Northwestern State President Dr. Randall J. Webb, Laurie Gentry and, back from left, Nolan Eller, library associate in the Henry Research Center of Watson Library, University Archivist and Records Officer Mary Linn Wernet and Vice President for External Affairs Jerry Pierce.

Gentry Collection includes musical, political, historical memorabilia

The Cammie G. Henry Research Center at Northwestern State University has received an extensive collection from Robert Gentry, the former editor/publisher of the Sabine Index.

The Robert Gentry Collection includes historic newspapers and a variety of items related to Louisiana politics, country music and the Rebel State Commemorative Area in Marthaville. The collection will be available to scholars studying Louisiana and country music.

"I love Northwestern since this is where I graduated," said Gentry. "I am a big believer in preserving history. Donating this collection is a way to preserve history and allow others to benefit. I inherited from my family the habit of collecting and I have been gathering a variety of items for 60 years."

The collection is valued at approximately \$50,000.

"Northwestern State is grateful to Robert Gentry for his generosity towards the university," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "Both Robert and his wife Laurie have been outstanding supporters of the university. This collection will be used by scholars around the world as they research articles, books, films

and other endeavors. Having such an important collection adds to the university's prestige."

A native of Montrose, from birth Gentry lived near Marthaville. He graduated from Marthaville High School in 1958 and attended Northwestern State College, earning a degree in journalism. During his time at Northwestern, he served as editor of the Current Sauce. During his college years, Gentry began his long friendships and working relationships with many Louisiana political figures. For almost 50 years, he was editor/publisher of the Sabine Index in Many, which garnered many Louisiana Press Association awards during Gentry's time there. He was awarded the "Friends of Earl K. Long" recognition by the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame. Gentry was recognized by the Louisiana Folklife Center and inducted into the Sabine Hall of Fame for his many lifetime achievements.

The collection includes the following.

The Rebel Park Collection covering the Rebel State Commemorative Area. The founding of Rebel Park began when Gentry wrote a story about an unknown Confederate soldier who was buried in Bethany community a

few miles from Marthaville. His article, submitted for a feature writing class he was in at Northwestern, ran in newspapers across the South. A growing interest developed about this unknown soldier's grave, which led to Gentry holding annual memorial event programs. For 50 years, Gentry, along with the Rebel Memorial Committee, hosted a wide variety of memorial tributes, music festivals, fox hunts and other events. In 1978, the park was taken into the Louisiana State Parks system with the help of Gentry's friend Gov. Edwin Edwards. This collection includes photographs, event programs, posters, news clippings and autographed memorabilia from park events.

Gov. Jimmie Davis Collection. Letters, photos, audio tapes, notes and campaign materials of former Louisiana Gov. Jimmie Davis. Davis appeared at Rebel Park many times, and Gentry produced the governor's 99th birthday party, which was held at Rebel Park in 1998. Gentry was also chairman of the governor's 100th birthday party in Baton Rouge the following year. As publisher of Sweet Dreams Publishing Co., Gentry issued a book, "Jimmie Davis, More Than Sunshine."

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Gov. Earl K. Long Collection. A large collection of newspaper clippings, campaign materials, notes, letters and photos of former Louisiana Gov. Earl Long. Gentry served as Gov. Long's last public relations representative when Long ran for U.S. Congress in the summer of 1960.

William J. "Bill" Dodd Collection. A large group of items from Northwestern graduate Bill Dodd. Dodd served as Louisiana lieutenant governor, state auditor and superintendent of education. He and Gentry were close friends for more than 40 years.

Autographed Celebrity Photos Collection. An impressive array of autographed photos from country music, Louisiana political greats and U.S. Presidents from the 1960s through the 1990s.

Historical Newspapers Collection. A collection of rare historical newspapers including a large quantity of Natchitoches Times from the early 1900s, vintage editions of the Sabine Index and Sabine Banner, as well as historic issues of newspapers from across the United States.

Johnny Horton Collection. The largest collection in existence on country music great Johnny Horton, who was also founder of Cane River Bait Company in Natchitoches. The collection includes photographs, manuscripts, letters, newspaper clippings, magazine articles and advertisements. Horton was a member of Shreveport's Louisiana Hayride and was killed in an auto accident in Milano, Texas, in 1960.

Presidential Memorabilia Collection. A large collection of items related to U.S. Presidents, including campaign items, autographed photos and keepsakes.

Hank Williams Sr. Collection. An impressive collection of Hank Williams Sr. items, including posters, photos, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, books and other printed materials related to Williams's life, career and times spent in Louisiana.

Business Hall of Distinction



Barbara Jo Pease, left, a 1973 graduate, was recognized with induction into the Northwestern State University School of Business Hall of Distinction an annual Homecoming brunch and awards program. Pease had a long successful career with Shell Oil, retiring as chief ethics and compliance officer. She now consults in the area of ethics and was a featured speaker during last week's J. Walter Porter Forum at NSU. Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, director of the School of Business, presented the award.

Dimension Development named Outstanding Business



Northwestern State University's School of Business recognized Dimension Development with an Outstanding Business Award during the School's annual Homecoming brunch and awards program. The award recognized a business or company that has provided support to the School through internships, student jobs, equipment or funding. From left are Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, director of the School of Business; NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb and Dimension Development staff Mary DeBlieux, Virginia Moore and Heath Zimmerman.